

Crusier-Destroyer Group Three. He was also the commander of Battle Group Foxtrot, and set sail on the U.S.S. *Enterprise* for her around-the-world cruise. On July 17, 1990, Rear Admiral Strasser became the 45th president of the Naval War College.

Rear Admiral Strasser has been awarded many decorations including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Commendation, and various campaign and service ribbons. I know that this body joins me in wishing the best of luck to him as he becomes the CEO for Pennsylvania State-Dubois Campus. My congratulations and best wishes to Rear Admiral Strasser, his wife Barbara, and their four children.

#### TURTLE BAY ASSOCIATION SALUTED FOR PLAYGROUND REVITALIZATION

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 1995*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to alert my colleagues to an exciting community development project that has taken place in my district.

Mr. Speaker, we are daily confronted with the news of the breakdown of our country's infrastructure, of crumbling communities that have ceased to care. Across this Nation, the most basic city institutions, such as parks and playgrounds, have seriously declined in recent years, as drug dealers and the homeless move in and residents and their children stay away. That's why I think it is important to herald the kind of community action that has resulted in a stunning turnaround for Gen. Douglas MacArthur Playground in New York City. Over the past year, the Turtle Bay Association, with the overwhelming support of neighborhood residents, has effected a revitalization for the embattled playground.

The new MacArthur Playground should serve as a shining example to all those who doubt that communities can rally to bring about substantive change. Beginning in 1994, the Turtle Bay Association organized badly needed renovations to the park, such as replacing contaminated sand in the sandbox and repairing damaged park equipment. Recently, the City Parks Foundation donated substantial funds for the construction of a state-of-the-art modular play system. To reduce installation costs, neighborhood residents actually raised money to purchase the equipment themselves. Now MacArthur Playground stands ready for its official ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 6th, a monument to community action as well as an oasis for hundreds of children and their parents.

The Turtle Bay Association and local residents should be commended for their devotion to this extremely worthy project. Richard and Amy Harary, and David and Susan Post Jensen in particular deserve special recognition and thanks for their efforts to turn MacArthur Playground around. I would also like to salute 860 and 870 UN Plaza, Chemical Bank, The Family School, Post Jensen Inc., Richard's In-

terior Design, the City Parks Foundation, and the Tenants of 301 East 47th Street. Finally, local merchants who donated food for volunteers at the project deserved recognition for their generous part in this revitalization. These people and organizations are a reminder to us all that urban decline is not irreversible, that caring neighbors can effect a world of good. They give us hope for the future of our troubled cities.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to report such good news to my colleagues, and to be able to congratulate all those who made it possible for New York's children to play in MacArthur Playground again. I am confident that their efforts will be enjoyed by generations to come, and I am hopeful that they will inspire others to do the same for their communities.

#### THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEAD START

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 1995*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Head Start. It is hard to believe that one of the most successful of the Great Society's programs is now 30 years old. For three decades this Federal program has been helping to improve the quality of life for children throughout out Nation.

Head Start Works. It has proven to be successful in contributing to the readiness of children beginning school. It is far more than child care. It is a comprehensive program that provides health, nutrition, and family services. It involves parents by encouraging them to participate in classroom activities, accompanying children on field trips, becoming substitute teachers, and teaching them to help their children learn and grow. This family focus is one of the reasons Head Start has been so successful. Unfortunately, many parents are unable to participate on a regular basis because they must work. For these parents, Head Start is a Godsend. Without Head Start, many children would simply lack adequate supervision because their parents must struggle to pay the bills.

Head Start is especially important for children with special needs. The identification of speech or language difficulties as well as more severe impairments allows early intervention to minimize and sometimes prevent the long-range effects of such obstacles. The health component provides youngsters an opportunity to have a complete health appraisal, another advantage that many of these children may not have had otherwise.

Today, the Macomb County Community Services Agency [MCCSA] is hosting a Birthday celebration to mark the success they have had in many of the communities I have the privilege to represent. According to their mission statement, the challenge of MCCSA Head Start is to empower participants towards self-sufficiency and skill development thereby removing barriers which limit the realization of individual potential. Since the summer of 1965, the MCCSA Head Start program has been removing barriers for literally thousands of children. Originally a summer program serving barely 100 children, Head Start in Macomb

County has grown to serve children in 41 classrooms and four home based clusters. A "Community Action Agency," MCCSA is dedicated to families and individuals seeking to improve their quality of life. For thirty years they have been meeting the challenge with positive results.

On this 30th anniversary, I applaud those who have made the program a success and I encourage my colleagues to join me in pledging continued support of Head Start.

#### CONGRESSIONAL REFORM

**HON. LEE H. HAMILTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 1995*

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, May 17, 1995 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

#### REFORM OF CONGRESS

Congress has made significant progress in its efforts to prevent and prosecute ethics violations by individual Members. A ban on honoraria for speeches, full financial disclosure, a prohibition on the use of official funds for campaign expenses, and increased scrutiny by the ethics committee have all made Members of Congress more accountable to the public. But public confidence in the institution remains low, and further steps are necessary.

Congress must continue to prosecute personal ethics violations vigorously, but we must also strengthen Congress by addressing institutional integrity more broadly. Some congressional conduct, while it may be legal, hampers the democratic process in the interest of political gain. We must broaden our concept of public morality and the standards of conduct to include a sense of fairness, respect for honest differences, and responsibility to the democratic process.

I have often expressed the concern that money plays a disproportionate role in American politics. The high cost of campaigns is increasing the dependence of candidates on special-interest groups, forcing candidates to spend too much time raising money instead of focusing on issues of national importance and meeting with voters.

Congress as an institution is damaged by the perception that the flood of campaign money or favors from lobbyists are influencing the behavior of Members of Congress. Even though there is little evidence showing a direct impact on Members' voting records, the public cannot be blamed for thinking otherwise. The democratic process is also damaged when Members make unfounded allegations or denigrate Congress as a whole for personal political gain. Many important reforms came close to passage last year, only to falter in election-year politics. I support a number of additional reforms to improve the public image of Congress, including the following:

**Campaign Finance Reform:** The importance of Political Action Committees (PACs) should be reduced. We should cap the total amount of PAC contributions a candidate could accept per election cycle and reduce the maximum PAC contribution limit. Members of Congress should also be prohibited from running "leadership PACs", which some use to gain influence over other Members. Reform should require candidates to emphasize small individual donations, capping the amount of large contributions a candidate could accept per election cycle.